

REMARKS

Claims 54-72 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-53 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner states claims 18-30, 32-34, 38-47, and 50-53 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 18-30, 32-34, 38-47, and 50-53 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiyama et al. (US Patent No. 5,436,655).

Applicants have canceled claims 48 and 49 without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection of claims 48 and 49 under § 102(b) is rendered moot.

Claims 54-72 are newly added. Support for the claims may be found throughout the initial disclosure.

Claims 54 and 61 recite, *inter-alia*, “the endoscope has an insertion part having a thin and long shape, a holding part continuously extending from a proximal end of the insertion part, an eyepiece section formed on the holding part.”

In contrast, the endoscope of Hiyama et al., does not have an eyepiece section which is formed on the holding part. Contrary to the Examiner’s contention that the item 718b of Hiyama et al. is an eyepiece section, item 718b is merely an image guide connector (see col. 61, lines 3-6 in Hiyama et al.). The image guide connector 718b is a part to which illumination light from the light source is supplied (see col. 61, lines 20-22 of Hiyama et al.). Thus, the image guide connector 718b is completely different from the eyepiece section recited in claims 54 and 61.

Furthermore, the TV observation system of claims 54 and 61 includes a TV camera connected to the eyepiece section of the endoscope. In contrast, since Hiyama’s endoscope does not have the eyepiece section as stated in above, there is no TV camera connected to the eyepiece section. Contrary to the Examiner’s contention that item 701 of Hiyama et al.

represents a TV camera, the item 701 is not a TV camera but merely represents the entire endoscope apparatus (see col. 60, line 36 of Hiyama et al.).

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Furthermore, the light source of the TV observation system of claims 54 and 61 has a plurality of LEDs. In contrast, Hiyama et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest a light source unit that has a plurality of LEDs.

In addition, the light source of the TV observation system recited in claim 61 is integrally constructed with the TV camera which is connected with the eyepiece section. In contrast, as stated above, Hiyama et al. does not have a TV camera connected to an eyepiece section. Moreover, Hiyama et al. does not have a light source integrally constructed with such a TV camera.

Claim 68 recites "A light source mounted on an endoscope that comprises an insertion part having a thin and long shape, a holding part continuously extending from a proximal end of the insertion part, an eyepiece section formed on the holding part, a light guide that introduces illumination light to a distal end of the insertion part, a light source connecting section formed on the holding part to achieve removable connection of the light source, wherein the light source comprises a plurality of LEDs and supplies illumination light to the light guide of the endoscope."

The endoscope of claim 68 comprises an eyepiece section formed on the holding part. In contrast, the endoscope of Hiyama et al., does not have an eyepiece section formed on the holding part. Contrary to the Examiner's contention that item 718b of Hiyama et al. is an eyepiece section, item 718b is merely an image guide connector (see col. 61, line 5 of Hiyama et al.). As stated above, the image guide connector 718b is a part to which illumination light from the light source is supplied and this is completely different from the eyepiece section recited in claim 68.

Moreover, the light source of claim 68 has a plurality of LEDs. In contrast, Hiyama does not disclose, teach or suggest a light source unit having a plurality of LEDs.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 54, 61 and 68, and claims 55-60, 62-67 and 69-72 which are dependent from either claim 54, 61 or 68, are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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